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INFO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
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RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
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SUBJECT: Media Report December 30

Lead Story

11. Chile's state-owned copper mine Codelco dismissed raising its final wage and benefit offer to avoid a workers' strike in Chuquicamata. The company is activating a contingency plan to face the work stoppage that will start on January 4.

Arms Race

12. Minister of Defense Francisco Vidal reiterated that Chile has never been in an arms race and noted that this evidence will become apparent with the publication of the third edition of the "White Book of National Defense" on January 14. The text is "an example of transparency that we wish other countries would have," Minister Vidal said. His remarks are interpreted as an implied message to Peru's calls to stop acquisitions of war material in the region. (Government-owned, editorially independent, La Nacion, 12/30)

Human Rights

13. More than five years after its completion, the National Commission on Political Detention and Torture, known as the Valech Commission, reassembled yesterday to encompass approximately 4,000 new cases in the list of recipients with restoration benefits. The Commission -headed by Catholic Monsignor Sergio Valech-would start its activity in mid January 2010 and continue during 6 months to assess and qualify cases involving victims of human rights violations during the military regime. (Conservative, newspaper-of-record, El Mercurio, 12/30)
SIMONS